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# FOOD PREVIEW

★ MAR 1 2 1957  
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service

December 17, 1956  
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- MEAT: Meat supplies will ease a little in 1957 from record 1956 volume, especially in 1957's first half, but supplies will still be large.
- Beef: Cattle and calf slaughter in 1957 may be fully as large as in 1956. But, with average carcass weights lighter, total supplies of beef will be down somewhat. Supplies of top-grade beef, from fed cattle, will be more evenly distributed through the year.
- Pork: Supplies of pork, especially, will be down in 1957, from 1956, with reduction in supplies already in progress. Reduction in farrowings and pigs saved will continue an influence through the first 6 to 8 months of 1957, when pork supplies will average considerably below 1956.
- Lamb: Prospective supplies for 1957 show little change from 1956.
- POULTRY: Production of poultry products in 1957 is likely to exceed the record levels being established in 1956.
- Eggs: Egg production to mid-1957 will be from a flock about as large as a year earlier, but producing at a higher rate per bird. In fall of 1957, egg supplies are likely to be about at the 1956 level for the corresponding months.
- Chicken: Broiler output in 1957 promises to be higher than in 1956. Principal basis for expecting continued record-large supplies is the widespread practice of "financing", and "vertical integration" -- form of organization providing coordinated control of broiler operation from hatching to distribution of finished birds.
- Turkey: Production is likely to exceed the record levels being established in 1956. Farmers report intentions to keep one-sixth more breeder hens of heavy types on January 1 than a year earlier; these intentions point to a larger supply of hatching eggs, of poults, and of turkeys in 1957 than in 1956.
- DAIRY: Uptrend in supplies of dairy products will probably continue in 1957. Milk production on farms will probably be up to another new record high -- probably 129 to 130 billion pounds, against 127 billion in 1956.
- FRUITS: With average weather, little change in total output of deciduous fruits appears likely. Larger crops for apples, apricots, cherries expected; smaller crops of peaches, pears, prunes.
- Citrus: 1956-57 crop of early and midseason oranges expected to be 3 percent larger than year ago. 1956-57 crop of Valencias is expected to be 2 percent above last year; indicated production in California is below last year, more than offset by larger crops in other States, particularly Florida. 1956-57 grapefruit crop is currently indicated about 5 percent smaller than 1955-56 crop. Florida tangerine crop is 6 percent larger than last year.

Canned: 1956 packs probably are not greatly different from 1955; output of citrus juices probably is smaller.

Frozen: 1956 packs of deciduous fruits and berries probably are about same as 1955. Small increase seems likely in 1956-57 in output of frozen orange concentrate in Florida.

Dried: New pack of dried fruits is a little larger than year ago, especially dried prunes.

Tree Nuts: Total production in 1957 probably will not be much different from that of 1956, if growing conditions are average.

VEGETABLES: Winter vegetable production is expected to be 10 percent smaller than in the comparable period a year earlier, but still up to average. Most significant reductions are reported for cabbage and carrots, but winter production of beets, broccoli, celery, lettuce, shallots and spinach is also expected to be down from last year. Increased winter production is in prospect for artichokes, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, escarole.

Processed: Supplies available for distribution into mid-1957 are substantially larger than those a year earlier. Biggest increases over a year earlier appear to be in prospect for sweet corn and tomato juice. More moderate increases over last year are expected for snap beans, green peas, tomatoes and most tomato products.

Frozen: Both carryover and indicated pack are substantially larger than last year.

Potatoes: Substantially more available for distribution this fall and winter than last, with important fall crop well over last year. Many more winter potatoes are expected for 1957, an increase of 42 percent over 1956. Florida acreage is up more than one half, and California's up almost one fifth. Growers of 1957 early spring acreage in Florida and Texas report intentions to plant 6 percent more potatoes than previous year.

Sweet-potatoes: Supplies are about one fifth smaller than last year.

RICE: Supplies still large in 1957 despite sharp increase in exports.

DRY BEANS: Supplies a little smaller than last season. More important colored classes generally in smaller supply, while white classes in larger supply.

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# The Plentiful Foods Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, will support industry campaigns on the following commodities, at the following times:

BEEF . . . . .	December 27 to January 5
CANNED SWEET CORN . . . . .	January 23 to February 2
EGGS . . . . .	March 1 to March 31
MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS . .	June 1 to June 30